

## 定年退職教員紹介

**Professor Schneider: *Auf Wiedersehen***

Martin WILLIS

Nineteen ninety-two was the year the Cold War was declared at an end, Bill Clinton was elected President of the United States, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and Prince Charles and Princess Diana broke up, and the nicotine patch arrived to coax many of us from a bad habit. It was also on 1st April of that year that Dennis E. Schneider parachuted in from the heavens of Tokyo University to become a professor in the Department of Languages at Tokyo Woman's Christian University. At that time, the Department of Languages was on the Mure campus and part of the exciting adventure in multidisciplinary education that was the College of Communication and Culture.

Prof Schneider came from Newburgh, a small town in Indiana that, more than most, probably deserves to be called *the middle of nowhere*, except that, as the first town north of the Mason Dixon line to be captured by the Confederacy in 1862 during the American Civil War, it clearly has an important place in history. After military service, during which I am reliably informed, he uneventfully flew a Remington typewriter, marriage and fatherhood, a graduate school education, and a period of teaching on a Navajo reservation, he came to Japan and embarked on a career in academia.

In the College of Communication and Culture, Dennis Schneider will probably be best remembered for his contribution to the Freshman Conference. The conference committee was one that he particularly enjoyed being on and one that he headed on several occasions. I think many of us will also remember how, in service areas on the way to and on the way back from the conferences, he was always first to the ice-cream stand and how he always returned with a soft ice-cream cone in each hand and a wide smile on his face. In the department, he helped us all fire ourselves up for our classes and keep us awake at meetings by making fresh, drip coffee almost every morning to provide us with the necessary caffeine. On a more serious note, Prof Schneider has made invaluable contributions in our yearly gatekeeping chores to produce materials that are valid, reliable and fair.

Prof Schneider is a person with great sense of responsibility and great integrity. In recent years, he has had to balance a full working schedule and the demands of looking after a sick wife. It cannot have been easy for him, but he has never let his standards drop with either task and never let us down.

Although we are saying goodbye to Prof Schneider, he has not disappeared from our lives. He is only retiring, not giving up the work or university that he has dedicated his life to for so long, and has agreed to stay on with us for the next two years as a part-time professor. I am sure that we all look forward to seeing him on campus. For those who would like more than to just see him, you can listen to him in the audio materials for the Communication Skills courses online at:

<http://lab.twcu.ac.jp/languages/english/CSA.html>,

<http://lab.twcu.ac.jp/languages/english/CSB.html>.

On his retirement, we all would like to wish Prof Schneider all the very best for his last part-time years with us and for, what we hope is a very long, happy and peaceful retirement, with plenty of time for his great loves: listening to classical music and singing in the choir.

On a personal note, Dennis has been a good, supportive friend; a good ear and a broad shoulder. The university will be a much emptier place without him in the room next door to mine.